

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for selecting a vendor based on a list of user-selected products,  
2 comprising the steps of:
  - 3 (a) receiving a plurality of product identifiers from a user, wherein each product  
4 identifier is associated with a particular product;
  - 5 (b) generating a list of the products;
  - 6 (c) searching for vendors of the products on the list;
  - 7 (d) selecting a vendor of the products based on predetermined criteria; and  
8 (e) outputting information about the selected vendor.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the product identifier is a representation  
2 of a bar code associated with the product.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the vendor is selected based on the  
2 number of products on the list available from the vendor.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the criteria for selecting the vendor  
2 include at least one of price, proximity to the vendor, availability of delivery,  
3 whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability, shipping availability,  
4 tracking availability, and a loyalty program.
- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of determining an  
2 availability of the products at each of a plurality of vendors, determining costs of  
3 the products charged by each of the vendors, and outputting summaries of the  
4 determinations.

- 1 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a promotional offer is output with the  
2 information about the selected vendor.
- 1 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein steps (a)-(e) are repeated in real time  
2 each time a product identifier is received from the user.
- 1 8. A computer program product for selecting a vendor based on a list of user-  
2 selected products, comprising:  
3 (a) computer code for receiving a plurality of product identifiers from a user,  
4 wherein each product identifier is associated with a particular product;  
5 (b) computer code for generating a list of the products;  
6 (c) computer code for searching for vendors of the products on the list;  
7 (d) computer code for selecting a vendor of the products based on predetermined  
8 criteria; and  
9 (e) computer code for outputting information about the selected vendor.
- 1 9. A computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the product  
2 identifier is a representation of a bar code associated with the product.
- 1 10. A computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the vendor is  
2 selected based on the number of products on the list available from the vendor.
- 1 11. A computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the criteria for  
2 selecting the vendor include at least one of price, proximity to the vendor,  
3 availability of delivery, whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability,  
4 shipping availability, tracking availability, and a loyalty program.
- 1 12. A computer program product as recited in claim 8, further comprising computer  
2 code for determining an availability of the products at each of a plurality of

3 vendors, computer code for determining costs of the products charged by each  
4 of the vendors, and computer code for outputting summaries of the  
5 determinations.

1 13. A computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein a promotional offer  
2 is output with the information about the selected vendor.

1 14. A computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer code is  
2 executed in real time each time a product identifier is received from the user.

1 15. A system for selecting a vendor based on a list of user-selected products,  
2 comprising:  
3 (a) logic for receiving a plurality of product identifiers from a user, wherein each  
4 product identifier is associated with a particular product;  
5 (b) logic for generating a list of the products;  
6 (c) logic for searching for vendors of the products on the list;  
7 (d) logic for selecting a vendor of the products based on predetermined criteria; and  
8 (e) logic for outputting information about the selected vendor.

1 16. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the product identifier is a  
2 representation of a bar code associated with the product.

1 17. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the vendor is selected based on the  
2 number of products on the list available from the vendor.

1 18. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the criteria for selecting the vendor  
2 include at least one of price, proximity to the vendor, availability of delivery,  
3 whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability, shipping availability,  
4 tracking availability, and a loyalty program.

- 1 19. A system as recited in claim 15, further comprising logic for determining an  
2 availability of the products at each of a plurality of vendors, logic for  
3 determining costs of the products charged by each of the vendors, and logic for  
4 outputting summaries of the determinations.
- 1 20. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein a promotional offer is output with the  
2 information about the selected vendor.

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